
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

19 September 2025

Jeff Sutton
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Willows, CA 95988
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NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT, CORTINA CREEK SIPHON EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT PROJECT (WDID#5A06CR00086), COLUSA COUNTY

On 4 September 2025, the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (Applicant) filed a notification requesting coverage under the 1 August 2023 State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regional General Permit 8 (WQ 2023-0061-DWQ) (General Certification Order) for the Cortina Creek Siphon Emergency Replacement Project (Project). After review of the notification and the supplemental material submitted by the Applicant, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has determined that the Project qualifies for enrollment under this General Certification Order. The proposed activity is taking place in less than 0.28 acre of waters of the United States.

The Central Valley Water Board is certifying this Project under United States Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit 8, Emergency Repair and Protection Activities, subject to the conditions and the notification requirements described in the Nationwide Permit ("Special Conditions"). This Notice of Applicability is being issued under the General Certification Order pursuant to Section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations.

A copy of the [General Certification Order](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/2023/rgp-8-certification-mainbody.pdf) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/2023/rgp-8-certification-mainbody.pdf) can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's General Orders webpage and is enclosed.

The Project is being conducted in accordance with the requirements contained in this Notice of Applicability and General Certification Order. The Project is described in the notification form requesting coverage under the General Certification Order, dated 4 September 2025, and supplementary information (Application Package). Coverage

under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project (as described) is modified.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

On the morning of 5 May 2025, a Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) water operator discovered water bubbling up in Cortina Creek indicating the existing pipeline crossing below the Creek failed. The pipeline located under the Creek allows irrigation water to be served to the surrounding area from the GCID Lateral 64-1a irrigation canal. As Cortina Creek was dry at this time of year, all the water present in the Creek was a result of the leaking pipeline. It was determined that immediate temporary emergency stabilization activities were required to prevent loss of critical supplies of irrigation water to approximately 1,600 acres of downstream agricultural land that also serves as potential habitat for giant garter snake. Two temporary coffer dams were installed on 7 May 2025 to prevent additional loss of irrigation water. The coffer dams are approximately 110 feet long and 75 feet wide and include about 225 cubic yards of material.

GCID will shut off the Lateral 64-1a irrigation canal from approximately September 17 to November 17 during the harvest season. Emergency repairs to the failed pipeline under Cortina Creek will take place during this time. Irrigation water must be flowing again by November 17 to provide water for rice field decomposition and waterfowl habitat flooding. The emergency construction must also be completed prior to the beginning of rainy season so that Cortina Creek is free from obstruction and able to convey runoff from precipitation.

Emergency repairs include the following actions:

- Shut off Lateral 64-1a on approximately September 17 and allow Cortina Creek to dry out.
- The existing emergency coffer dams will be relocated up and downstream in Cortina Creek to facilitate emergency construction activities within the Creek bed and banks. The coffer dams will isolate the work area and prevent negative impacts to water quality.
- Vegetation will be removed from the Creek banks to facilitate equipment access to the failure site.
- Cortina Creek bed and banks will be excavated and trenched in order to complete repairs.
- Excavated material will be stockpiled and stabilized on site away from where it could wash back into the Creek.
- Damaged infrastructure will be replaced within the same footprint as the existing facility.
- Once construction activity is complete, the temporary coffer dams will be removed. Cortina Creek will be restored to preconstruction conditions.
- The site will be reseeded and revegetated with natural species such as willows and native riparian grasses.

Historically, Cortina Creek is dry from natural creek flows during the anticipated work period of September 17 through November 17. However, if water is present in the Creek, water will be bypassed through the work area by way of large diameter pipes. The pipes will be installed between the temporary coffer dams to facilitate continuation of natural flows downstream while preventing negative impacts on water quality.

The Project will temporarily impact 0.28 acre of waters of the United States.

ADDITIONAL CONDITION:

Water Quality Monitoring Plan: A Water Quality Monitoring Plan shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board if flows in Cortina Creek need to be diverted around the work area.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Project is located at the intersection of Cortina Creek and the GCID Lateral 64-1a irrigation canal in Colusa County.

Latitude: 39.090767°, Longitude: -122.069756°

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

The Project installed the temporary coffer dams on 7 May 2025. The timeframe to complete the repairs to the damaged pipeline is expected to take approximately 21 days. Construction will take place sometime between 17 September 2025 and 17 November 2025.

APPLICATION FEE RECEIVED:

An application fee of \$4,212.00 was received on 4 September 2025. The fee amount was determined as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3), and was calculated as category F- Emergency Projects authorized by a Water Board General Order (fee code 85) with the dredge and fill fee calculator.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Applicability, please contact Nicholas Savino at (916) 464-4920 or Nicholas.Savino@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Anne Walters for:

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Water Quality Order No. 2023-0061-DWQ Clean Water Act Section 401
Water Quality Certification for Regional General Permit 8 for Emergency
Repair and Protection Activities

cc: Distribution List, page 4

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Figure 1: Project Location

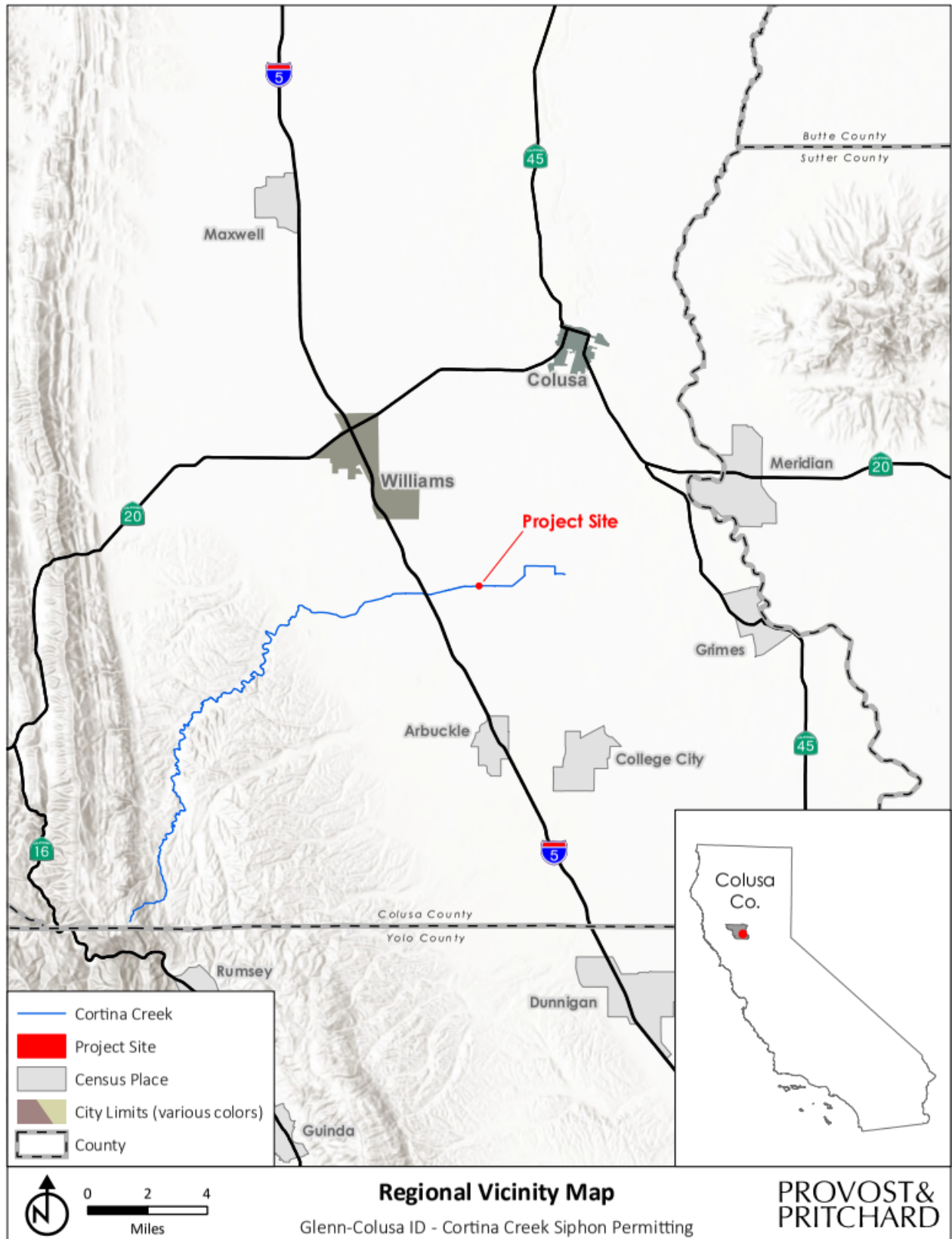


Figure 2: Project Site



Figure 3: Project Impacts

